

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, December 17, 2004*

## MPDC'S 5TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY HONORS POLICE AND COMMUNITY HEROES

After hearing gunshots in the 5200 block of 9th Street, NW, last December, Officer Robert Braxton of the Fourth District managed to almost single-handedly apprehend an armed suspect who had fired at the police—only to discover a short time later that the suspect was also involved in an earlier homicide in 4D. Just over a year ago, Detective Robert Saunders of the First District used quick actions and compassion to rescue a woman who was threatening to commit suicide by jumping from a bridge over the Eisenhower Freeway on E Street, NW. And in her PSA 201 community, resident Samantha Nolan is a constant and unifying presence, bringing police and community together—through measures both “high tech” and “high touch”—to solve public safety problems. Braxton, Saunders and Nolan were three of the more than 200 police officers, civilian employees and community partners honored for their outstanding efforts, during the MPDC's 5th Annual Awards Ceremony this past Tuesday at DAR Constitution Hall. Outstanding individuals were recognized in 11 different awards categories, including the Medal of Valor, for heroism; the Lifesaving Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal, for outstanding contributions; and the Achievement Medal, for individual acts of skill or bravery. The Chief's Special Award was presented to community members who have excelled in supporting crime prevention and community policing, and the Chief's Award of Merit was given to members of other agencies that have assisted the MPD in significant operations.

## MPDC RELEASES FINAL REPORT OF “BIASED POLICING PROJECT”

Large majorities of DC residents are satisfied with the overall performance of the MPDC and the demeanor, conduct and integrity of the Department's officers, according to a new report issued this week by the MPDC. But to guard against any possible bias in the delivery of police services, the report also recommends that the MPDC begin collecting data on police stops. The final report of the “Biased Policing Project” was prepared by the independent, DC-based Police Foundation. It includes the results of a survey that measured DC residents' attitudes about police performance, officer demeanor and integrity, and possible bias in the delivery of police services, and it contains recommendations in the areas of community interaction and outreach, employee development and monitoring of agency performance. “The report found no evidence of widespread or institutional bias in the way our officers treat the community or deliver police services,” said Chief Ramsey. “However, the report did uncover perceptions of bias among some segments of the community. It is critically important that we better understand the sources of those feelings and address them head-on.” The Chief said the MPDC has secured a grant from the US Department of Justice to initiate a program for collecting and analyzing department-wide data on police stops. Ramsey also pointed out that the MPDC has already begun to implement many of the other recommendations in the report, including increased bicycle and foot patrols, expanded youth outreach, enhanced employee recognition, and more active recruitment of Latino and Asian police officer candidates.

① Also recognized at the ceremony were the MPDC's Detective of the Year, Anthony Brigidini, of the Violent Crimes Branch; Officer of the Year, Ivan Jordan, of the Sixth District; and Employee of the Year, Yvonne Smith, of the Policing for Prevention Unit. Read the news release on the awards ceremony at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2993>

① The Department awarded two posthumous Blue Badge Medals to family members of two MPDC sergeants who died in the line of duty during 2004: John Ashley and Clifton Rife II. For more on these two heroes, visit the MPDC's on-line memorial page:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/officers/officers.shtm#2000>

① For a complete list of this year's awardees in all categories, view the program book (in PDF):

[http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/awards/awardsprog\\_04.pdf](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/awards/awardsprog_04.pdf)

① The Department thanks DAR Constitution Hall and event emcees Tony Richards, TC and George Willborn, of “The Real DC Morning Show” on WHUR 96.3-FM, for the contributions to this year's awards ceremony.

① Read the news release summarizing the new report at:

<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2992>

① To access the full report, including the MPDC's response, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/biasedpolicing.shtm>

## DC OFFICIALS COME TOGETHER TO ADDRESS INCREASE IN ROBBERIES OF NEW LATINO IMMIGRANTS

In recent weeks, parts of the Third Police District have experienced an upsurge in robberies of large amounts of cash, principally from new Latino immigrants. Many of these community members do not deposit their money in banks for either lack of trust or because they can't open accounts due to insufficient bureaucratic documentation requirements. "We must do all we can to help our residents and immigrants by providing them with access to information and resources in order to secure and protect hard earned incomes to those who need it most, in a language they can understand," said Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham. Graham, the MPDC, the Office on Latino Affairs (OLA), the Council on Latino Agencies, the International Migrants' Development Fund (FIDMi) and other community partners are coming together to help protect the community and inform immigrants about options to protect their property. At least 22 Latinos have been reported being robbed in the past 90 days, and many more have gone unreported, according to Inspector Diane Groomes of the 3D-1 Substation. "We have engaged community partners to help us disseminate safety tips on ways to secure their money in order for neighbors not to fall victims of robbery," Groomes said. The MPDC's Latino Liaison Unit will also be collaborating through information sharing and house visits to the community. For more information about this new partnership, contact Councilmember Graham's office at (202) 724-8181.

## WATCH OUT FOR CHARITY SCAMS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season is traditionally a time of giving, with many charities seeking contributions to help the less fortunate. But it's also a time when some con artists try to take advantage of others' generosity by going door-to-door for "charitable donations"—when there's no charity involved. If someone shows up at your door asking for donations, always ask for identification. It's also a good idea to request printed information about the charity, or a phone number or website that you can contact for more information. Also, find out how the funds will be used. Be especially wary of people who ask for cash only or for children soliciting funds who are not accompanied by an adult. If you are not satisfied with the answers you get, don't give. As an alternative, help a charitable organization you know and like instead.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Cafritz Award Winners.** Congratulations to Sergeant Brett Parson, head of the MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit, who is one of five winners of this year's Cafritz Awards for outstanding DC Government employees. Parson is recognized for his work in reducing crime and improving partnerships between the MPDC and DC's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. In addition, Captain Patrick Burke of 5D is a Cafritz finalist, honored for his work in traffic safety. Get details on the Cafritz Awards at [www.cafritzawards.org](http://www.cafritzawards.org)

**November Court Reports.** Each month, the US Attorney's Community Prosecution unit publishes a report containing a summary of significant cases that were prosecuted in each police district during the previous month. November reports are now available at [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community\\_Prosecution/Court\\_Reports/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html).

**Visitor Parking Permits.** Expecting out-of-town guests this holiday season who need to park their vehicles in a zoned parking area? Information about obtaining free Visitor Parking Permits is available at <http://www.mpdcc.gov/info/traffic/visitorpermits.shtm>.

① Robert Spagnoletti, DC's Attorney General, wants to ensure residents have a worry-free online shopping experience this holiday season. For tips on safe shopping via the Internet, go to:

[www.oag.dc.gov](http://www.oag.dc.gov)

① Charity scams are just one type of crime that can happen during the holidays. For a complete list of winter holiday safety tips for shoppers, travelers and when you're at home, visit:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/winter.shtm>

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides as of 12/17/04

- ◆ 2004: 189
- ◆ 2003: 236
- ◆ % Change: -19.9%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 55.9% (109 closures)

#### Adult Arrests week end. 12/11/04

- ◆ Total: 787
- ◆ Drugs: 146
- ◆ Weapons: 30
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 16
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 25

#### Juvenile Activity week end. 12/11/04

- ◆ Arrests: 60
- ◆ Curfew Violations: 32
- ◆ Truants: 53

#### Firearm Recoveries as of 12/15/04

- ◆ December: 100
- ◆ 2004 Total: 1,987

#### Traffic Fatalities as of 12/17/04

- ◆ 2004: 43
- ◆ 2003: 65
- ◆ % Change: -33.8%

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**